

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

November 20, 2006

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, November 20, 2006, in the media center of the Block Island School. Interim Superintendent Leslie Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway.

Annual Meeting

William Padien was nominated for chairperson by Shea Butcher; the nomination was seconded by Annie Hall. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve William Padien as chairperson.

Annie Hall was nominated for secretary by William Padien; the nomination was seconded by Shea Butcher. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve Annie Hall as secretary.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on October 17, 2006, as presented carried with a

vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on October 17, 2006, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 7:05 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4 and 5 (a)(2) for contract negotiations and collective bargaining carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 7:16 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to sign and send the letter from the New Shoreham School Committee to the New Shoreham Teachers' Association to provide formal notification of the termination of the Memorandum of Agreement concerning Site Based Management and the Core Team as listed in the current contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mrs. Ryan stated that she had received a request from the music teacher to purchase musical instruments for students. She stated that since the \$1500 included in the budget for drama probably won't be used this year it could be re-appropriated to assist families with the purchase of instruments on a case-by-case basis. School Committee members asked Mrs. Ryan to obtain more information from Mr. Gregory on how many students are in need, how much money this would entail, who would own the instruments if the school paid half the cost, etc. Mrs. Ryan will follow up on this request and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Mrs. Hall attended an Early Learning Center meeting where more fund raising was discussed. She also reported that Martha Velie-Gass and Janet Merritt were appointed as co-chairs.

Mrs. Hall attended a Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on November 15 where a discussion was held on the new IDEA regulations.

Sean McGarry reported that he had received a survey from RIASC on the uniform system of accounting that has recently taken effect. He will seek information from the other committee members and Fiscal Clerk Nancy Cole before submitting his survey.

Mr. Padien reported that we are still waiting for Howell Conant to wire

the tech ed room. Money for this and the installation of the ductwork has been earmarked by the town's Finance Director, Amy Lewis. Each machine will need an automatic shut-off. Another required item is a fence around the generator. Prices range from \$4,000 for a chain link fence to \$7,000 for a composite material. It is hoped that the town can pay for some of the fencing because it will enclose the town's generator. It was stated that these items and the ADA requirements must be done by January 21 for our CO. The basketball stanchions are to be installed on Saturday by Joe Sprague at no cost to the school. It was requested that left over construction materials that are currently being stored on the school grounds be removed as soon as possible.

The Athletic Director's report for fall 2006 was submitted by Matthew Moran. The 7-9 soccer team came in third at the Pine Point tournament. Mr. Moran thanked the people involved in this season's soccer program. A First Aid and CPR class will be held on November 27 to assist people interested in becoming coaches.

Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:

- Grades 3-8 took the annual NECAP tests during three weeks in October. Last week the students in grade 11 took a three-day NECAP pilot test. Grades 10 and 11 took the PSATs. The juniors and seniors have been and will continue to sign up for the SATs, which are administered at various times throughout the year. The ACTs will be administered this year in early December.

- Two of the six seniors have already sent applications to colleges and the other four are working on applications. Many juniors have started to make college visits.
- The Financial Aid Night was rescheduled to November 27 because of weather concerns.
- Amy Dugan and Sue Gibbons have been offering homework help sessions four afternoons each week. Mrs. Gibbons is also offering a Commit, Organize, and Work (COW) session and a weekly SAT practice course.
- Sharon Lee, a representative from RIDE, facilitated a very informative workshop on November 7 on High School Regulations.
- The elementary teachers have started to look for a new reading series to replace the one adopted in 1996 and four of them attended a reading conference in Providence.
- The school building tours held on Election Day for the public were well attended.
- Work continues to turn Room 21 into the elementary/middle computer room. The floor has been refinished, the room was painted, and the counter tops will soon be installed. The PolyCom will also be housed in this room.
- Three teachers are currently taking a course via PolyCom, which is being offered by URI and held at the Narragansett Pier School.
- On October 31 Carrie Todd's piano students in grades 3-5 performed "The Witches Magic Piano" for the elementary students. This was followed by a Halloween Safety presentation by New Shoreham Police Department.

- Privet hedge and spring bulbs have been planted around the campus. These plantings were organized by Debby Hart, Molly O'Neill, Derek van Lent, and Bill Padien, and a handful of dedicated of volunteers assisted them.
- Consultants from Apple Computer demonstrated the Macs to high school students and staff members on November 8th.
- Parents have been informed that students in grades 4-12 will be completing a SALT survey the first week of December. High school students will fill out the survey on December 4 while teachers work with the curriculum consultant from Westerly. Surveys are being sent home to parents and the teachers have already received theirs.
- First quarter is over and report cards have gone home.

Mrs. Ryan reported that she and Marsha Gutierrez attended a workshop on highly qualified teachers. She hopes that all our teachers will attain highly qualified status shortly.

Mrs. Ryan also attended a workshop on the new high school regulations. She was able to make contact with the curriculum director from Westerly, who is willing to come to Block Island to assist our faculty members align our curriculum with state regulations. Mrs. Ryan will write the required "December letter" to RIDE addressing how we are going to meet the state requirements.

Old Business

An updated resolution for the Employees Retirement System of

Rhode Island was prepared by Attorney Denise Myers addressing the issue of the school department sending in the employees' contributions pre-tax instead of post-tax. This resolution is retro-active to January 1, 2006. A

motion (Padien, Hall) to sign the resolution as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

The organizational chart developed by Mr. Padien based on the various discussions held at previous School Committee meetings and outlining the management plan that will go into effect for the 2007-08 school year was briefly discussed. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the flow chart as previously presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A resolution to establish a Superintendent Search Committee was submitted for School Committee review. Members of the search committee will include the chairperson of the School Committee or his designee, two members from the general public, up to two members of the faculty, a representative of the Town Employees Association, and Marsha Gutierrez will represent the administration. Mr. Padien reported that John Gasner and Kathy Szabo have offered to serve on the committee. Lynn Cunningham has been chosen to represent the Town Employees Association. A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint Sean McGarry as the School Committee representative and chair of this subcommittee carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

School safety issues were discussed at last month's meeting and Mrs. Ryan recommended that committee members review Policy GG: School Anti-Violence and Weapons and the Memorandum of Understanding between New Shoreham Police Department and New Shoreham School Department at their leisure over the next several weeks and update it as appropriate. If any changes are made the updated policy can be presented to the committee for review at the December meeting before posting for the required 30 days. Mr. Padien stated that he would make sure Chief Carlone gets a copy of the policy for his input.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Jill Closter as a part-time teacher assistant retroactive to October 23, 2006, carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Closter will work up to 19 hours per week with no benefits and be compensated at the rate of \$13.50 per hour.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointments of the following coaches carried with a vote of 5-0.

- Girls junior high assistant coach – Roberta Dailey**
- Boys junior high assistant coach – John Leancu**
- Boys varsity head coach – David Turner**
- Boys varsity assistant coach – James Murray**

Correspondence was received from Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick

asking the School Committee to consider supporting a resolution from the City of East Providence, which is seeking repeal of Rhode Island special education laws that are more restrictive than Federal laws. It was decided that this item would be tabled until the committee had an opportunity to speak with our legislators. However, it was mentioned that the committee would continue to support RIASC and SORICO on education funding issues.

Mr. Padien asked the other members for approval to seek a ruling from the state Labor Board to withdraw the fiscal clerk from the Town Employees Association, stating that his main reason would be confidentiality. He has felt uncomfortable asking the fiscal clerk for possible calculations on various wage items. He stated that the association does not agree that this is a confidential position and opposes the withdrawal of the fiscal clerk from the association. A motion (Padien, Hall) to seek a ruling from the Labor Board to withdraw the fiscal clerk from the union was withdrawn until an opinion on this item is received from our attorney.

It was suggested that Mrs. Ryan draft a letter to the Town Manager/Town Council requesting that the FEMA trailer currently situated on the property be removed because of space constraints and safety issues during recess. Mr. Padien reported that he had received another request from the town to place a second pod, which contains water and MREs, on the school property. Mr. McGarry recused himself from this discussion. All four members of the

School Committee were adamantly opposed to having more trailers/pods placed on school property and suggested that the Faulkner property would be a better place to store the trailers.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of November and December 2006 was submitted for School Committee information.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to change the regular December meeting from Monday, December 18 to Tuesday, December 19 carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence

A copy of the Site Council minutes from the meeting held on November 9, 2006, was included for School Committee information.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 9:42 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for possible litigation carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:50 P.M. to return to open session and seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:51 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 12/19/2006